

32692

Customer Number

Patent  
Case No.: 58065US008

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

First Named Inventor: DODSWORTH, ROBERT S.

Application No.: 10/784860

Confirmation No.: 9435

Filed: February 23, 2004

Group Art Unit 1775

Title: ETCHED DIELECTRIC FILM IN HARD DISK DRIVES

---

**PRE-APPEAL BRIEF REQUEST FOR REVIEW**

Mail Stop AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Commissioner:

Appellant hereby requests a Panel Review of the Final Rejection, dated July 3, 2006, in the above-identified application. This request is being filed concurrently with the Notice of Appeal Pursuant to 37 CFR §041.31(a). No amendments are being filed with this request.

**STATUS OF THE CLAIMS**

Claims 1, 3, and 5-7 stand rejected.

A rejection of claims 1 and its dependent claims based on 35 USC section 112, first paragraph, has been withdrawn by the Examiner pursuant to a telephone conference between the Examiner and the undersigned.

Claims 1, and 5-6 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) and (b) as being anticipated by Iilda (US 5,407,557)

Claims 3 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Iilda (US 5,407,557)

**REASON FOR THE REQUEST**

The rejections of the claims state that Iilda discloses through holes in the insulating layer. However, the present application does not claim through holes in an insulating layer, but instead claims a dielectric film etched from an original thickness of 25  $\mu\text{m}$  or greater to a controlled

thickness of greater than 0 and less than about 20  $\mu\text{m}$ . Formation of an exemplary thinned dielectric layer is described in the specification at p. 14, lines 21-25.

**SUMMARY**

Applicants submit that the application is in condition for allowance and request that the Examiner's rejections be withdrawn.

Applicants have concurrently filed an Amendment After Final to correct typographical errors in the Figures and Specification.

Respectfully submitted,

Dec. 4, 2006  
Date

By: Melanie Gover  
Melanie G. Gover, Reg. No.: 41,793  
Telephone No.: 512-984-4308

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833